

United States Government. Indeed, there are those who would try to work to take this misguided military exemption to try and extend it to all Federal activities. That would be a tragedy. It would not only underscore fundamental hypocrisy; it would put more pressure on small business and local governments and individuals because the Federal Government refuses to do its part.

In order to win the battle to protect the environment, America must provide leadership. A critical part of that leadership has always been our military. To send them a signal that environmental stewardship does not matter and that they do not have to play by the same rules the rest of us do is the wrong signal for them; it is the wrong signal for the rest of America; and it is certainly the wrong direction for our efforts against global warming, air and water pollution.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope the House will have the presence of mind to reject this wrong-headed approach.

PENSION SECURITY IS A VICTORY FOR WORKING AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY) is recognized during morning hour debates.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, another week, another victory for working Americans. On the heels of our bipartisan passage of the President's jobs and growth package, this week the House will consider the Pension Security Act of 2003.

This legislation will empower employees and make them better informed about their retirement investment options. It will make businesses more accountable to their employees and corporations more accountable to their most valuable investors. And by giving rank-and-file employees increased flexibility and information, this legislation will better protect American savings from the effects of some misguided companies.

The legislation will allow employees with company stock to sell it and diversify their portfolios after just 3 years, rather than up to 10 as under current law. Employees will still be allowed to own shares of their own company, but companies could no longer require their employees to do so.

The Pension Security Act will help employees get even more personal investment advice than current law dictates. It also provides tax incentives to help working Americans pay for additional retirement planning services. And with this bill, we will ensure that all workers have access to quality advice about investment strategies, diversification, and risks.

To help keep people informed will also require companies to provide their employees with quarterly benefit statements with information about their investment performance and rights to di-

versify. Finally, this bill will confirm that when workers do not have access to their accounts during so-called blackout periods, companies must act in their employees' best interests.

Mr. Speaker, this is another step towards the establishment of a pension and retirement savings system in this country that does what it is supposed to do. Employees will be assured their investments are theirs, that the diversification strategy they employ will be tailored to their needs, and that they will have access to expert advisors bound to serve the interests of them and not anyone else. By empowering employees with more flexibility and information in their retirement planning, we will be adding to the long-term financial security of our Nation.

So as I said, Mr. Speaker, another week, another victory for working Americans.

REPUBLICANS DENY WORKERS EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS DURING ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the Republican leader of the House, began his talk by saying, a victory for working Americans last week. It is hard to think it was a victory for working Americans when we have over 1 million people who are unemployed, who are receiving unemployment compensation, and 36,000 of those in Ohio, their benefits expire on May 31; and this Republican Congress and this President refused to extend their unemployment benefits.

Last November many of us in this House, many of us on the Democratic side, called for an extension of unemployment benefits for the 23,000 workers in Ohio and 1.1 million-or-so workers nationwide whose benefits were set to expire at the end of the year. After bowing to public outrage, the White House begrudgingly gave congressional Republicans the green light to help the unemployed. They were reluctant; but because of the pressure they received from people in my State of Ohio and across the country from unemployed workers and people who care about unemployed workers, Republicans could not ignore the expiring of unemployment benefits any longer.

It is 5 months later, and we are going down that same road again. Several days ago, House Republicans passed President Bush's tax cut that gives millionaires an average tax cut of \$93,000. If you make \$1 million a year, you get a tax cut of \$93,000. Fewer than half the people in my State, or about half the people in my State of Ohio, will get less than \$200 from that same tax cut bill; but the 1 percent wealthiest people whose income averages

\$968,000 a year will get a \$93,000 tax break. That is twice as much as the median total income of people in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I supported a Democratic alternative that extends unemployment benefits to help families struggling through the Bush recession and to provide real economic stimulus by putting the money in the pockets of those who will spend it, those who are unemployed, those who need it most, those who are most likely to put that money into the economy to create economic activity to create jobs. Our plan provides tax stimulus for small businesses and manufacturing that is the core of Ohio's economy and offers immediate relief to States like Ohio, almost all the 50 States, which are drowning in red ink, help to maintain Medicaid, avoid further job losses and cuts in critical programs, and prevent tax increases, so that States do not feel forced to raise taxes as most of them, Republican and Democratic Governors alike, are doing.

Did the House Republican leadership embrace this commonsense plan? No. Did the Republicans vote to extend unemployment benefits for 1 million Americans whose benefits are running out and who cannot find a job as hard as they are willing to work, one of the best ways to spur economic growth? No. Did the Republicans extend unemployment benefits? No. Did the Republicans give assistance to cash-strapped States all over the country that are raising taxes, cutting health care, and raising tuition rates on middle-class families? No. And why is the Republican answer to all of our economic problems always, always tax cuts for the rich?

The President's tax cut plan echoes the 2001 President's tax cut plan in other ways. The 2001 tax cut delivered 40 percent of its benefits to the richest 1 percent of the people in this country. They marketed it as a tax break for ordinary folks, and now they are saying it again. Keep in mind, half of the tax cut goes to people whose average income is \$968,000 a year. The typical family, though, gets a tax break of about \$200 next year; but families with incomes of \$1 million get \$93,000.

Two years ago, the President got his tax cut through Congress, which he claimed would create jobs. Two years later, today, we have lost since then 1.7 million jobs, and now they are saying we should do it again.

The latest unemployment statistics show 360,000 Ohioans are out of work, 33,000 more than were reported in January.

□ 1245

Ohio has lost a quarter of a million jobs since President Bush took office. President Bush has the worst job creation record, averaging a loss of 68,000 jobs a month, of any President in the last 58 years. Every month that President Bush has been in office, we have seen a decrease in the number of jobs

in this country. We have lost 563 jobs for every working hour of every working day since President Bush took office.

During that time period in President Clinton's first term, nearly 11 million jobs were created, including nearly a half million manufacturing jobs. Yet we have seen over 1 million manufacturing jobs vanish since President Bush moved into the White House.

Over the next decade, 27 percent of the tax cut, about the share that goes to the bottom 90 percent of the population, would go to these very high-income families. Despite these economic statistics, President Bush will not ask Congress to do what his father asked Congress a dozen years ago. In the wake of the recession of the early 1900s, they extended unemployment benefits; the same thing that President Bush and House Republicans should do.

AMERICA APPRECIATES ALLIED SUPPORT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY). Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I want to revisit the war in Iraq, if I may.

On March 25 of this year, Mr. Speaker, I came to the House floor and said the following: "Many insist that this is a unilateral operation. Not true. There are many supporters, but they are reluctant to openly oppose Saddam. They fear him. They, in fact, Mr. Speaker, are afraid. Many of his neighbors loathe Saddam, but they stand in fear. But the Bush-Blair wagon will move forward with the support, albeit sometimes anonymous, of other nations."

Mr. Speaker, as we have continued to praise our U.S. troops, I want us to avoid ignoring our allies, because as I said on this floor about 2 months ago, it is not a unilateral effort. I recently read in the Sergeant Shaft article, which appears regularly in the Washington Times, a letter from an Australian commander who wrote, "When are the British and Australian troops going to be included in the television coverage?"

A fair question. Now, I am not critical of the coverage, Mr. Speaker, as it is only natural to praise our own troops first, but we certainly do not want to turn deaf ears to the contributions of our allies, Great Britain, Australia, Spain, Poland, many others.

I was recently in Denmark regarding the sensitive issue of maritime security and learned while there of the impressive assistance we have received from the Danes in this war effort.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, another point. Some Members of the Congress have been openly critical of President Bush's recent visit with our troops aboard the carrier *Lincoln*, alleging excessive costs. Some of these same critics are hardly paragons of restraint

when it comes to pork barrel spending of taxpayers' dollars. I am more inclined, Mr. Speaker, to place a higher value upon the troops' enthusiastic welcome to the President as opposed to some sour grapes criticism after the fact.

To sum up, Mr. Speaker, President Bush has demonstrated responsible leadership. We have been a beneficiary of able assistance from our allies, which we need to openly and gratefully acknowledge; and we need to be patient and deliberate in restoring some sense of order in Iraq. But the people of Iraq who demanded the removal of Saddam need to demonstrate patience and deliberation as well.

HONORING PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this afternoon to commend my colleagues' attention to a resolution that I will introduce today honoring Pregnancy Resource Centers.

According to surveys of women who have had abortions, 90 percent indicate they would have preferred other options had they simply known about them. The tragedy and irony in many situations is that most women are flooded with the pro-abortion message, but are rarely offered any other message of choice. Rather, unknowing clients are led to believe that abortion is the only solution to their problem.

Through costly advertising, young women go into abortion clinics and are assured that help is only a few hundred dollars away. Harmful consequences of abortions are minimized or simply ignored. Alternatives like parenting or adoption are not encouraged. In fact, they are rarely mentioned.

Sadly, it is only later that they learn there are alternatives. Desperately trying to spread this message to young women are the 2,500 Pregnancy Resource Centers across America. Through education and support, Pregnancy Resource Centers meet women's emotional and physical needs. They provide one-on-one counseling regarding the facts about adoption, abortion, and parenting so that the client may make a wise and informed decision about her pregnancy. Centers are dedicated to helping each woman resolve her situation in a way that equips her with better life skills for her future.

Practical help like parenting classes, support groups, education, and job skills classes are offered through many Pregnancy Resource Centers as well. Maternity clothes, baby needs, and even temporary housing is offered. Some Crisis Pregnancy Centers have full medical services on the premises, and unlike abortion clinics, these centers offer support for women suffering from postabortion syndrome.

For those women who have undergone an abortion, the devastation can be real and ongoing if she does not receive help. Most centers are committed to the healing, body and soul, of women who have suffered from an abortion. They offer medical and counseling services and stand alongside these women in their healing process.

Life-affirming pregnancy centers provide an example of love and compassion to women and their unborn babies. These centers have been upholding the value of all human life, born and unborn, for several decades. Women are increasingly turning to these centers for physical, psychological, emotional, and spiritual help. They are always treated with the utmost dignity and respect and are provided with accurate, up-to-date information in order to make informed decisions about their pregnancy, sexual health, and relationships. Because everyone should have access to this information, all services are free of charge.

I am honored to represent one such center in my hometown of Ocala, Florida. The Women's Pregnancy Center has been serving the people faithfully of Marion County for 22 years. This center serves nearly 1,500 women a year of all ages and backgrounds. They serve these women and men faithfully and discreetly.

In today's culture, abortion is too often the first thought for women facing unplanned pregnancy, but there are alternatives, and Pregnancy Resource Centers can provide them. These centers are not only the most strategic and effective, but often the most needed of the forces engaged in the defense of the unborn. It is fitting that we recognize these courageous and struggling agencies that seek to bring purpose to the surprises of life. Never are these needs greatest than in the smallest of families, a mother and her growing baby.

I invite Members to join in providing support for more than 2,500 Crisis Pregnancy Centers around the United States of America. The good work of these centers merits our recognition, and the compassionate staff deserve our admiration.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to become an original cosponsor of this resolution to demonstrate their support for Pregnancy Resource Centers and their tens of thousands of volunteer staff who are encouraging the protection and value of all human life in America.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.